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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

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Episode #80

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.D.S.T. SEPTEMBER 21, 1933 THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: After three weeks of vacationing you will all be happy I am sure to welcome the return of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers. Ranger Jim, his wife Bess, and Jerry Quick are back again to bring us more of the homey episodes which you have grown to look forward to. So - here they are, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER: Forest land constitutes a basic and fundamental element in the Nation's present and potential resources. Our Nation is indeed fortunate that it has insured the permanent conservation and sound management of at least a part of its forest land resources through the establishment of our great National Forest system. The men on the ground, to whom the great responsibility of protecting and properly administering these national forest resources is entrusted, are Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, - a rugged, capable bunch of men, hand picked for the important job that is theirs.

This summer, many of our Rangers have been called upon to handle another big job - supervision of the work of thousands of young Civilian Conservation Corps boys, who have been brought into the forests under the President's Emergency Conservation Work program. More than fourteen hundred Conservation Camps have been established, on federal State, and other forest lands. Nearly half of them are located on the National Forests, where, under the supervision of Forest officers, a vast amount of useful work is being accomplished for the safeguarding and improvement of our forest resources.

Up in the Pine Cone District, where our old friend Ranger Jim Robbins, and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, are on the job, a Conservation Camp has been established this summer, as you know. Like all the others, this camp is in charge of Army officers, while forest officers are in charge of the work schedules. Consequently Jim and Jerry have had to give a lot of attention to lining up and organizing the work of the young men from the camp. -- Well, let's see what's going on at the Pine Cone Ranger Station today. -- Here we are --

JIM: (CALLS) Oh, Bess --

BESS: (OFF) Yes, Jim --?

JIM: Come here a minute, Bess -- I've got something for you.

BESS: (COMING UP) For me? What is it?

JIM: It's a note from the commanding officer of the Conservation Camp.

BESS: What can it be? -- Oh! - Listen to this, Jim.-- It says:

(READS) "Dear Mrs. Robbins - On behalf of the members of Camp Robbins, Civilian Conservation Corps --" (TO JIM)

Why, Jim! Did they name the camp after you?

JIM: Yep. Camp Robbins. (CHUCKLING) Made me feel pretty good, too.

BESS: Isn't that splendid! - Let's see - the note says:

(READS) "On behalf of the members of Camp Robbins, Civilian Conservation Corps, I wish to extend to you a cordial invitation to have supper with us tonight at the camp. Supper will be served at six o'clock." (TO JIM)
Oh, Jim, isn't that nice of them! I must let them know I'm coming right away.

JIM: I've already accepted the invitation for you, Bess.

BESS: Oh, that's fine, Jim.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) The invitation didn't say anything about your husband, by the way --

BESS: Oh, but Jim, I'm sure they meant --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) But the captain told me confidentially that he reckoned there wouldn't be any serious objections if Jerry and I tagged along. You'll be the guest of honor, though, of course.

BESS: The guest of honor! Just imagine! - Oh dear, what on earth shall I wear!

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well now -- that's one problem I think I'll steer clear of. -- Where's Jerry?

BESS: He's right out there - on the back porch.

JIM: (CALLS) Jerry - oh, Jerry -

JERRY: (OFF) Yo. -- Whatyuh want, Jim?

JIM: How's that new buggy of yours working?

JERRY: (COMING UP) Okay, Jim. -- She's hitting on all six.

JIM: Fine. -- She kinda went back on you last Sunday, didn't she?

JERRY: Yeah. I never did get to Willow Glen.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Left the young lady sittin' twiddlin' her thumbs all day, eh?

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Yeah. -- Ruth didn't mind, though. I called her up and told her what the matter was. -- Anyway, the buggy's running now. Why?

JIM: Well, Bess is going to be guest of honor up at the Conservation Camp for supper tonight, and --

JERRY: (CUTTING IN) Swell! That's great, Mrs. Robbins!

BESS: Thanks, Jerry.

JIM: And I was thinking I might run up there a little early this afternoon and look over some of the work the boys've been doing, and you could bring Bess up later in time for supper, in that leaping chariot of yours,

JERRY: Sure. I'll be glad to. -- I'll go tune up the motor (GOING OFF) a little more right now.

JIM: Okay, Jerry. --

(SOUND OF DOOR)

BESS: Jerry still seems to be interested in Ruth Lander, down in Willow Glen, doesn't he?

JIM: Yep. Trots down there pretty regular.

BESS: I want to be fair, of course, Jim, - and she's an awfully sweet girl, too, -- but I can't help feeling just a little bit -- well, sort of angry with her for winning Jerry away from Mary Halloway.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) She did kinda rope 'im by the front feet when she was up here helping us with the work that time, didn't she? -- But just the same, maybe she hasn't won him clear away from the schoolma'am yet.

BESS: But Jerry and Mary are hardly speaking to each other nowadays, Jim. And she never stops in here anymore, like she used to.

JIM: Well, I reckon we'll have to let Jerry do his trotting where he wants to. -- Anyhow, one thing you won't have to worry about tonight, Bess, is me bein' late for supper.

BESS: Well, that's something. -- Let's see - what can I wear --
(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF CHOPPING, OFF)

DAVE: (OFF) Hello there, Jim --

JIM: Howdy, Dave. How's our thinning operation gettin' along here?

DAVE: (COMING UP) Okay, Jim. The work's going fine.

JIM: Looks pretty good, so far.

DAVE: Yeah. -- Did Mrs. Robbins come up with you, Jim?

JIM: No.

DAVE: We're expecting her for supper at the camp tonight, you know.

JIM: I know. She's coming up later with Jerry.

DAVE: I see.

JIM: Well, Dave, how does it feel to be back in the woods again?

DAVE: Doggone good, Jim. I had seven years at a desk and two years on a job hunt. But once a forester, it sticks in your blood, I guess. It's like coming home to be back on a job like this.

JIM: Yep.

DAVE: And besides, not having forest work to do was bad for my appetite.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, I s'pect that's picking up quick enough, ain't it?

DAVE: You bet.

JIM: I'm sure glad to have you here as Superintendent on this thinning job, Dave. You'll see to it that Uncle Sam gets a square deal on timber stand improvement.

DAVE: Thanks, Jim. -- I've sure got a fine bunch of boys to work with.

JIM: Yep. We need men like you and your lads in the Forest. And I bet the boys of your crew here will get to feeling just like you do about the forest, Dave.

DAVE: Maybe so, Jim.

JIM: Looks like a nice job of thinning here, Dave. You've liberated a fine stand of timber from being overcrowded.

DAVE: Yeah. The boys caught on pretty quick about leaving the straight, vigorous trees that'll make the best lumber, and thinning out the weak ones. (CHUCKLES) Most of these boys at first didn't know a softwood from a hardwood. One of 'em thought a softwood was a tree full of pulp from hartrot. (CHUCKLES) - Over there across the road was one of our first jobs of roadside improvement.

JIM: I was noticing that.

DAVE: Yeah. I had a strawboss on that job. He had an artistic eye, all right, but he was a little rusty on his tree culture, and, they left a lot of bum trees. We'll have to go over that job a little.

JIM: Looks that way. On a site like that I'd favor the pine and spruce.

DAVE: That's what we aim to do. These lads are catching on, too. We have a young fellow in the bunch that's something of a naturalist and knows all the species like a book, and the boys are studying with him at night and learning their trees.

JIM: Good. Looks like they're interested, all right.

DAVE: Yeah. -- Most of 'em do pretty good work, when you give a little attention to getting 'em on the right job. One of the boys left a worthless thornbush the other day, and I sent him back to cut it. He got himself all scratched up. I had him take lessons from an axeman we had here, but I reckon the boy's talents didn't run to axemanship. He could hit hard enough, but nobody knew where it would land. He let his ax slip and it sailed through the air almost brained one of the other fellows. So I transferred him to a road crew, and he's doing all right there.

JIM: Yep, that's the way, Dave. We've got to teach these boys good workmanship. One of our big objectives here is the welfare of the men. We want them to benefit by their labor, as well as to have the forest benefit from their labor, see?

DAVE: I know Jim. Some of 'em didn't have much idea how to work. They were pretty clumsy in almost anything you could put 'em at. But they're grabbing right hold in good shape.

JIM: Well that's fine. Say how are you getting lined up for the fall planting work?

DAVE: I'm planning to put a hundred men on scalping next week. If we don't have any more fires to fight we can have the sod scalped off about 5,000 acres of planting spots by the time the planting season arrives. That way we can get more trees in during the season.

JIM: Yes, having the spots ready beforehand will just about double the area we can plant. (SOUND OF CHOPPING - OFF) Say, those fellows are handling their axes pretty well.

DAVE: Yes - Yes, they get along all right.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Stripped to the waist and brown as Indians. They look good don't they?

DAVE: They'll never be in better shape in their lives.

JIM: Yeah! You're right there. The life is doing them a lot of good. I hope they appreciate it.

DAVE: Yeah - Well - Some of them do and some don't. After all they represent a good cross section of the manhood of the nation. Some of them will go a long way in life and some wont.

JIM: Yes -- you're right, but we want to give them all an opportunity. Do they show much interest in the camp library? Do any reading?

DAVE: Yes -- Some -- More interested in boxing and baseball.

JIM: (LAUGHS) I guess that's perfectly natural, Dave. When we get some electric lights in camp I think they'll do more reading. We gather around a camp fire about twice a week and give the boys some talks. I've got a couple of helpers who are good on that sort of thing. They've had training in Scout or club work and know how to talk

JIM: to young fellows. The commanding officer is good too. He gives the boys some good pep talks. I give them a little on forestry now and then. I don't know as it does them any good but they seem to take it all right.

JIM: That's splendid, Dave. I believe that sort of thing does a lot of good. An idea dropped here and there among a bunch of young fellows - it's like sowing seed in fertile ground -- I figure we have an opportunity there Dave - and a responsibility.

DAVE: You're dead right, Jim -- and we're giving them the best we've got. -- Well, I see it's quitting time. I'll pipe them in and we'll go to camp.

(SOUND -- LONG BLAST OF POLICE WHISTLE -- CHOPPING CEASES AND BABBLE OF VOICES -- OFF)

DAVE: (SHOUTS) Swing your truck in here, Tony. (SOUND -- ROAR OF BIG MOTOR -- STOPS)

DAVE: (SHOUTS) Load your tools first, boys.

(SOUND CLATTER OF TOOLS AGAINST STEEL TRUCKS)

DAVE: NOW Load yourselves.

(MANY VOICES: -- "Hey, get out of the way!" "Gimme a hand!" "Shove over will you!")

DAVE: (LOUDLY) All set?

VOICES: Yeah, let's go. Step on 'er.

DAVE: All right, Tony.

(SOUND HEAVY MOTOR TRUCK FADES)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF MOTOR-STOPS)

DAVE: Well, here we are Jim.

JIM: Yep. I wonder if --

DAVE: I see a lady over there talking to the Captain.

JIM: Oh yes, and Jerry too. I'll just step over and pay my respects to Captain Welch, then I'll join you at the office tent, Dave.

DAVE: All right, Jim, I'll be over as soon as I get unloaded here. (LOUDER) All right boys, check your tools in!

(SOUND - RATTLE OF TOOLS AND VOICES FADE OUT)

JIM: (COMING UP) Well Bess, I see Jerry got you up here all right -- How do you do Captain, how are you?

CAPT: How do you do, Mr. Robbins, I'm glad to see you, sir.

BESS: (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Captain Welch has been showing us around the camp. I think it's just wonderful. Those long lines of tents all fixed up so clean and cozy. And that long building where the boys are crowding in, is a shower with a cement floor and water heater so they can have warm baths.

JERRY: I wouldn't mind spending a summer in a camp like this myself.

JIM: Your camp does look mighty nice, Captain Welch.

CAPT: Thank you sir. We try to keep it in good order. Would you like to go over to the mess hall and see the cooks? They're getting ready to serve.

BESS: Oh yes. I'd love to see them.

JIM: I have a little business with Dave at the office so I'll join you at supper.

BESS: Now Jim, remember you are not at home and you are not to keep supper waiting.

JIM: (LAUGHS) Don't worry Bess. (GOING OFF) I'LL be right on hand like a sore thumb.

CAPT: We'll be expecting you -- This first building is the office and commissary, Mrs, Robbins. We keep a stock of candy and tobacco and little things that the boys need. The other end is used for an assembly hall and reading room.

JERRY: What do you have to read, Captain?

CAPT: Newspapers, magazines, books. There's a library of a hundred volumes of fiction and more than fifty titles of non-fiction.

JERRY: From the number of readers in here now it looks like the library is being well patronized.

CAPT: Yes sir. They're using it more and more all the time.

BESS: What in the world is that? That great big thing up on the log tower?

CAPT: That's the water tank, mam. It furnishes running water to the kitchen and showers.

BESS: Why, of course, how stupid of me, and this long building I suppose its the dining hall?

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Wrong again Mrs, Robbins -- that's the mess hall.

BESS: Oh dear, what names for things. I don't talk your language at all.

CAPT: (LAUGHING) By any other name it smells the same. Shall we enter at this end? This is the kitchen end.

(SOUND. DOOR. ENTERING ON BOARD FLOOR)

BESS: Oh! Don't they look nice all in white caps and aprons?
Are they all cooks?

CAPT: Just two cooks. The rest are enrolled men acting as
helpers.

BESS: They wait on the tables, I suppose?

CAPT: No, we serve cafeteria style. You see they are all lined
up along that counter with the food. The men file along
the other side and are served as they pass.

JERRY: Gee, Mrs. Robbins look at those huge pans of steaks.

BESS: My goodness, will they eat all of that meat?

CAPT: I dare say they will.

BESS: My but it smells good, it makes me hungry.

JERRY: When do they start?

CAPT: Right away. The sergeant is ready to give the signal.

VOICE: (CALLS) Let 'er go Sarge.

(SOUND LONG BLAST OF POLICE WHISTLE)

JERRY: Watch 'em come, Mrs. Robbins.

(SOUND MEN RUNNING, CALLING, LAUGHTER, GENERAL UPROAR)

BESS: Goodness me! Will they come charging right in here?

CAPT: No indeed. See, they are falling in by squads of eight.

(VOICE IN COMMAND - FALL IN - QUIET - UPROAR CEASES - SOUND OF POLICE
WHISTLE - 2 Short Blasts followed BY SOUND OF MANY FEET ENTERING
ON FLOOR)

CAPT: You see, Mrs. Robbins, each man has his mess kit ready.
As he passes down the line each server helps him to an
article of food. Then he goes to the table to eat it.

JERRY: You let them come back for seconds, don't you?

CAPT: Yes, and thirds if they want it.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) The way some of those boys are loading up I don't see how they can get away with their firsts.

BESS: I think its wonderful. Let's see what they are getting-- there's meat - and potatoes and gravy - carrots.

JERRY: What is the next?

BESS: It looks like cabbage - why yes of course its cabbage salad - and for goodness sake look at those huge slices of bread. That boy must have 3 or 4 of those big slices with a big chunk of butter on top -- and coffee -- and what's that last? --

JERRY: Rice pudding.

BESS: Yes! rice pudding.

CAPT: There! Now you know what you are going to have for supper.

BESS: (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Oh, do we eat here with the boys?!

CAPT: No, we have our own mess hall for the officers, but we have the same food.

JERRY: It looks plenty good to me.

BESS: It looks awfully good. I know I shall enjoy it.

CAPT: Let's stroll over to the mess tent. I think the cook is about ready.

BESS: Tell me Captain Welch what do the boys do in the evenings?

CAPT: (LAUGHS) Sometimes I wish I had some way of knowing what they were all doing. Most of them stay pretty close to camp. Some do a little boxing. They pitch horseshoes, play games, read, and write letters. You would be surprised at the number of letters that go out from camp.

JERRY: I imagine some of those letters carry some romantic tales to the folks back home.

CAPT: No doubt they do. -- This evening we'll have a camp fire gathering for you. Build a big camp fire and all hands gather around it and have singing and stunts and lectures -- all kinds of entertainment.

BESS: Oh how splendid. I imagine the boys enjoy them too.

CAPT: Yes, most of them seem to. Tonight Mr. Robbins is down for a speech and afterwards we'll have several reels of motion pictures about forest fires and game -- things of that sort.

BESS: I hope you won't tell Jim he is down for a speech until after supper. He won't be able to eat a thing.

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Jim's been thinking about this speech for two days, Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: (COMING UP) Huh? What you saying about me, Jerry?

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Not a thing, Jim.

CAPT: (CHUCKLING) No indeed -- not a thing. -- Well, suppose we eat.

BESS: All right. -- And just think! Jim Robbins is here right on time.

(LAUGHTER) (FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, it's too bad we can't stick around for supper and the campfire pow-wow afterward. But we'll have a chance to visit this camp again, I'm sure.

Thousands of young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps this year are engaged in useful improvement work in the National Forests. It's another big job that Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers have been called upon to handle - to organize and direct this work toward maximum usefulness and accomplishment. While this program will by no means complete the work that needs to be done for the improvement and protection of the Forests, it will be a long step ahead, and already a huge sum total of accomplishment has been rolled up.

This program comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

mr/3:45 P.M.
September 20, 1933

and now we are to our own to ourselves
and to those traditional forms of human experience which have
been shaped by the past and by the forces of history.
Such is the task of the new people who have been born
into this community, and it is their task to make this a new
and better community, and to continue the tradition of
the past, but to do so in a spirit of freedom and
of justice, and to do so in a spirit of equality and
of brotherhood.

With these words, the author has signed a document he has written
and dated, and which reads as follows:

John Galt
100 p.m.